



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://laccod.org>**

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

1:00 PM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-5914)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (15-5676)

President Carlos Benavides called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2nd Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, 1st Vice President Janet Neal and Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi joined the meeting at 1:10 p.m., 1:15 p.m. and 2:35 p.m., respectively.

Present: President Carlos Benavides, 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, 2nd Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza, Commissioner Allan Buck, Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi, Commissioner John R. James, Commissioner Steve Miller, Commissioner Hector Ochoa, Commissioner Peggie Reyna, Commissioner Rita Tomassian-Hopkins, Commissioner John B. Troost and Commissioner Wan Chun Chang

Absent: Commissioner Edward A. Colley, Commissioner Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Commissioner Dee Pinchbeck and Commissioner Sheila D. Wright

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of November 18, 2015. (15-5677)

On motion of Commissioner John Troost, seconded by Commissioner Rita Tomassian-Hopkins, unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Receive and file the Access Services, Incorporated Board of Directors meeting report for December 2015. (15-5679)

Commissioner Troost provided a verbal report before the Commission which highlighted an Accessibility Award that was given to Lorri Berson and an Access Award that was given to Linda Evans.

By Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

3. Receive and File Access Services Incorporated report by Louis Burns, Access Services Customer Support Administrator. (15-5681)

Mr. Burns thanked the Commission for their continued support regarding the fare changes.

During discussion, President Benavides encouraged Commissioners to provide staff with questions to be addressed by Access Services, Inc., regarding the imminent El Nino weather. Mr. Burns noted a representative from his office will be available at the January meeting to address emergency preparedness procedures Access has or will have during such weather.

President Benavides and 2nd Vice President Welt Narro also spoke about their recent visit to the Access Services Eligibility Office where they expressed concerns on the little customer service given and several violations including HIPAA compliance with individuals. In response to the discussion, Mr. Burns will meet with the staff at the Eligibility Office to address their concerns and report back to the Commission at a later date.

After discussion, and by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

4. Receive and File the monthly METRO Accessibility Report and follow-up questions posed by the Commission at the November 18, 2015 meeting as presented by Yvonne Price, Accessibility Programs Administrator for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO). (15-5680)

Yvonne Price presented a verbal report before the Commission and introduced Joanna Lemus, Accessibility Programs Administrator, who will work as an alternate representing Metro before the Commission when Ms. Price is not available.

During discussion, Ms. Price reported issues regarding maintenance and the use of chemicals for odors were implemented at the Lake Avenue elevators and other elevator stations. In addition, she noted Metro is researching photo booths that can be accessible for wheelchair users. Metro is also working to address handicapped placard issues with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). A response from the DMV has yet to be received. Metro will also be implementing more accessibility video projects to be available in their busses in 2016. In conclusion, she noted construction problems in and around the Crenshaw District should have been resolved. Metro will use lessons learned to avoid complications for constituents and residents at future construction locations.

Commissioner James noted cameras may be an option for Metro to use to address and fine individuals for urinating at the Metro elevators.

Commissioner Chun Chang also noted Metro can speak with the Civil Rights Unit of DMV to address issuance of placards for Metro.

Joanna Lemus presented several outreach events that presented opportunities for users to view buses and accessibilities within Metro buses and trains without the fear of movement. Braille flip cards will be available hopefully by early 2016. Rail System Map will be made available to other agencies that requested for it.

Ms. Lemus will provide staff with her contact information for Commissioners to request additional Rail System Maps for their individual agencies/organizations and cities.

Commissioners Allan Buck, Wan Chun Chang, Janet Neal, Peggie Reyna and Steve Miller provided their comments.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATIONS

5. Presentation on the impact of cutback and freezes in funding for services to people with profound physical, medical and developmental disabilities within Los Angeles County, as requested by Steve Miller, Chair Standing Policy Committee. (15-4472)

Commissioner Miller provided an overview about the impact of cutback and freezes in funding for services to people with profound physical, medical and developmental disabilities.

George Stevens, Director of North Los Angeles County Regional Center and Dr. Ron Cohen, CEO of United Cerebral Palsy for Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties that service the San Fernando, Antelope Valley and north area of Mulholland drive, presented before the Commission on the impact of cutbacks and freezes in funding for services to people with profound physical, medical and developmental disabilities within Los Angeles County. He highlighted on network services that have lost 107 providers. The displacements have impacted over 1800 individuals. Over the last year and a half, we've lost 17 homes primary to business cost. Over the last 12 years rates received from the State have remained consistent. The cost of doing business has gone up. Housing is a big issue and providing staff to support the continuing issue.

Dr. Ron Cohen, CEO of United Cerebral Palsy, service anything that could be classified as a developmental disability by law. They employ around 1000 employees and have programs throughout Los Angeles County represent 600 individuals and more if you count their families. They are on track to lose \$4.2 million that include housing tenant care and their needs.

During discussion, Commissioners Neal and Caracoza noted the need for quality and consistency in services.

Commissioner Chun Chang questioned what would be the role of the Department of Rehabilitation Services.

Dr. Cohen responded by asking..."What is at stake?" The Department will never close because it is part of the State. It will be the individual organizations that will have to close due to the cuts.

In closing, Commissioner Miller reiterated the need for the Commission to continue to visit the loss of funding issues for individual business and the disabled community without housing. He encouraged the Commission to help them support their projects.

President Carlos Benavides thanked Mr. George Stevens and Dr. Ron Cohen for their informative presentation.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

6. Presentation by the Guide Dogs of America on guide dogs, as submitted by Commissioner John James at the meeting of September 16, 2015. (15-4474)

Dan Rollins provided a brief overview of Guide Dogs of America.

Lorri Berson provided the requirements needed in order to assess the needs of the person needing a dog. This helps the trainers make the proper matches for the dogs. There is no cost to the applicant; however, the cost is absorbed by Guide Dogs of America. Funding for Guide Dogs of America is made by fund raisings.

Commissioners Wan Chun Chang and Janet Neal provided their comments.

During discussion, Mr. Rollins and Ms. Berson responded to questions posed by the Commission. Information for types of food for dogs will be forwarded to staff for dissemination to Commissioners.

President Carlos Benavides thanked Mr. Rollins and Ms. Berson for their informative presentation.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

7. President Report for the Month of December 2015. (15-5683)

President Carlos Benavides reminded Commissioners of their Strategic Plan Outline for the Commission that will need to be reported at the January 21, 2016 meeting.

8. Receive and File the Departmental written report updates and staff report submitted by Emma De Jesus. (15-5684)

Commissioners were reminded to please submit their mileage reports timely. Staff Emma De Jesus referred to the summary reports submitted by the Department of Mental Health, Department of Beaches and Harbors and the office of Consumer & Business Affairs. She also noted she will advise the Commission of additional summaries they are submitted.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT DMH](#)
 [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT DBH](#)
 [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT DCA](#)

V. DISCUSSIONS

9. Continued discussion and possible action on Standing Committee (Education, Transportation, Housing, Media, Recreation/Access), Event Committee and Proposed Ad-Hoc Committees for 2016 as requested by President Benavides. (Continued from the meetings of 10/21/15 and 11/18/15) (15-4910)

During discussion, the following Standing Committees and Ad-Hoc Committees were re-established and established:

AD-HOC COMMITTEES

Events Committee: Chair - Carlos Benavides, Co-Chair Janet Neal, John Troost

Policy Committee: Chair - Steve Miller, Allan Buck, Janet Neal, John James. Lourdes Caracoza, Peggie Reyna, Rita Tomassian-Hopkins, Wan Chun Chang

STANDING COMMITTEES

Education Committee: Chair - John Troost, Janet Neal, John James

Transportation Committee: Chair - Janet Neal, Allan Buck, Lourdes Caracoza, Rosa Maria Chaturvedi

Housing/Social Services Committee: Chair - Wendy Welt Narro, Peggie Reyna

Recreational/Access Committee: Chair - Carlos Benavides, Hector Ochoa

Commissioners were reminded to submit their update reports upon completion of any meetings held. Staff noted Standing Committees should be mindful of the Brown Act requirements when holding meetings. Commissioner Benavides encouraged Commissioners to remain active within their individual Committees.

After discussion, on motion of President Carlos Benavides, and by Common Consent, there being no objection, the aforementioned Committees were formed.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS**10. Commissioner Announcements. (15-5685)**

Commissioner John James commended staff for a job well done throughout the year and always. 1st Vice President Janet Neal and all Commissioners joined in wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

Matters Not Posted

11. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested), placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the authority, of matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-5687)

No matters posted.

Public Comment

12. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-5688)

Richard Krzyzanowski, member of the public, addressed the Commission on the Peer Professional Training and Placement program for the mentally ill.

Jose Solorzano, member of the public, addressed the Commission.

Chanh To, member of the public, addressed the Commission with the invitation by the Mental Health Commission on December 17, 2015 at Lambert Park located at 11431 McGirk St., El Monte.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment for the meeting of December 16, 2015. (15-5689)

On motion of 1st Vice President Janet Neal, seconded by Commissioner Miller, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.